

REMARKS/ARGUMENT**Regarding the Objections to the Drawings:**

Applicants respectfully take exception to the objection to the drawings as failing to show all elements of the claims. For convenient reference by the Examiner, an attachment to this communication has been provided in which the claims (amended as discussed below) have been annotated to identify each claim element with an element of the drawings. References to the specification are also provided where appropriate.

If this objection is adhered to upon reconsideration, the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify specific claim elements which he considers not to be shown in the drawings.

Regarding the Objections to the Specification:

This objection is not clearly understood as the Examiner has not stated in what respect he considers the specification to be deficient. Nevertheless, the references to the specification in the annotated claims attached should demonstrate that each element of the claims is adequately described. As in the case of the objection to the drawings, if this objection is adhered to upon reconsideration, the Examiner is respectfully requested to identify specific claims element which he considers not to be adequately described.

A new Abstract is submitted herewith which addresses the objections stated in Section 4 of the outstanding Office Action.

Regarding the Objections to the Claims:

The required change in claims 2-5 has been made.

Regarding the Claims in General:

Claims 1-7 are now pending. Claims 1-5 have been amended to address various issues raised by the Examiner, and to improve the form thereof for U.S. examination. These amendments have not narrowed the claims for statutory purposes related to patentability.

Claims 6-7 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Regarding the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112:

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but in an effort to advance the prosecution, the claims (particularly claim 1) has been reviewed and amended to clearly define a series of method steps, to adopt better wording, and to generally conform better to U. S. patent examining practice.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has not demonstrated any legitimate basis for the rejections under the first and second paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 112. In respect to the enablement rejection, the Examiner has simply stated conclusions with a brief ten-word summary of the specification, but without any specific examples of inadequately described claim features, and has not explained why a person skilled in the art would not be able to practice the claimed invention. The Examiner has at least a minimum burden of factual proof which he must meet in making a rejection before applicants should be put to the burden of defending the specification or claims. It is respectfully submitted that he has not met this burden.

Nevertheless, in the annotated copy of claim 1, the references to the specification and drawings should demonstrate that the requirements of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112 have been met.

With respect to the rejection under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112, the Examiner has made several specific suggestions, and these have been adopted in amending claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of this application, including application of the prior art to the claims, if warranted, is respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (703) 872-9306 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Lawrence A Hoffman

Name of applicant, assignee or
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Lawrence A Hoffman
Signature

May 2, 2005

Date of Signature

LAH:gl

Respectfully submitted,

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AMENDED CLAIMS CORRESPONDENCE TO SPECIFICATION AND DRAWINGS

1. A method for processing a plurality of leadframe items to form an integrated circuit package *[A, B, see page 2, line 32 to page 3, line 4, and Figs. 1-3]*, each of the leadframe items *[A, B]* comprising an integrated circuit carried by a suitable leadframe, the leadframe items *[A, B]* being of two or more types, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving each of the leadframe items *[A, B]* along a respective input path *[10, 20, see page 3 lines 29-32]*;

moving a plurality of holders *[50, 60, see page 3 lines 32-34]* corresponding in number to the number of integrated circuits to be processed alternately between a processing region *[90 (ejector level), see page 5, lines 26-27]* and a respective leadframe item reception position *[502, 601, see page 3 line 34 to page 4, line 4, and page 4, lines 23-24]* on a respective input path *[10, 20]* such that each of the holders *[50, 60]* moves to the processing region *[90]* at a time when the other of the holders *[50, 60]* moves to its respective reception position *[502, 601]*;

transferring the leadframe items *[A, B]* from their respective input paths *[10, 20]* to respective ones of the holders *[50, 60]* at the respective reception positions; *[501, 601]*

delivering the leadframe items to the processing region *[90]*; and

at the processing region *[90]*, sending the leadframe items *[A, B]* for encapsulation.

2. The method according to claim 1 in which the at least two holders *[50, 60]* are portions of a single member *[40, see page 3, lines 32-34]*, the step of moving the holders *[50, 60]* being a motion of the member *[40]*.

3. The method according to claim 2 in which the motion is a reciprocating motion and the processing region *[90]* is located between the at least two reception positions *[502, 601]*.

4. The method according to claim 3 in which the at least two reception positions **[502, 601]** are respectively above and below the processing region **[90]**.

The method according to claim 1 in which the leadframe items are provided in corresponding magazines **[201]**, the holders **[50, 60]** receiving the leadframe items **[A, B]** within the corresponding magazines **[201]**, and the method further including extracting the leadframe items **[A, B]** from the magazines **[201]** in the processing region **[90]**.